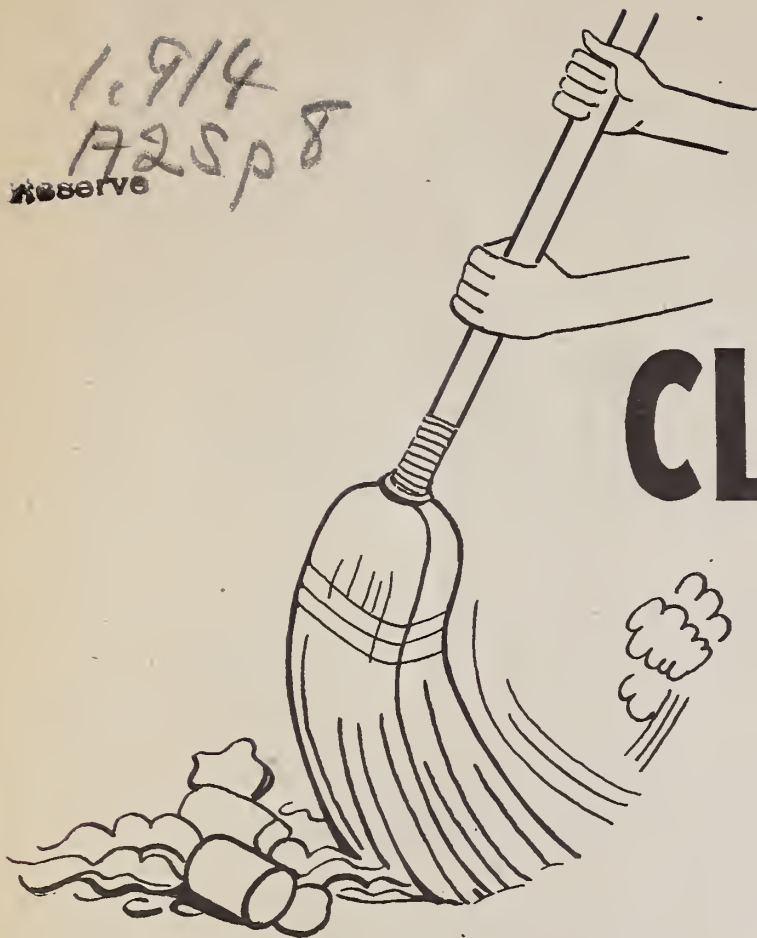


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Spring CLEAN-UP WEEK

to prevent
FIRES-ACCIDENTS-WASTE

U.S. Department of Agriculture
March 14, 1945

A disastrous toll of food, labor, life, equipment and critical supplies needed to win the war is taken by fires, accidents and careless waste.

FIRES COSTLY

About 90 million dollars worth of farm property is destroyed every year by FIRE. An average of 10 lives are lost in farm fires every day. Burns cause 25 percent of the accidental deaths in farm homes. Many rural fire departments fight more fires in the spring than during other seasons of the year.

ACCIDENTS HURT

A million and a half farm people are injured each year. About 18,000 farm residents are killed each year in accidents, and the frequency of fatal farm work accidents is 50 percent greater than in all industry. Spring clean-up can prevent many of them.

CARELESS WASTE

Paper, rags, clothing, tin cans, sacks and metal are all items which should be salvaged for the war. A spring clean-up will put them in line to help win the war. Eight million tons of waste paper is the salvage goal this year.

Fires, Accidents and Careless Waste carry on guerrilla warfare on the farms. Removing debris, rubbish and trash not only reduces fire hazards and accidents, but uncovers critical materials needed for the war program, and also aids our health by eliminating disease breeding places.

This spring each community is urged to set aside a special week for Farm Clean-Up. This is housecleaning time. A thorough job in the home and on the farm will do much to help prevent fires and personal accidents and to minimize the loss from waste.

A SPRING CLEAN-UP BLITZ WILL STRIKE ALL THESE ENEMIES AT ONE SWEEP!

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Things To Do ---

Every farm should undertake a spring clean-up campaign covering the following:

1. In the farm home clean up all debris, trash, paper and other hazardous waste material in attics, closets, stairways and basements.
2. In the other farm buildings (barns, shops, machine sheds, etc.) likewise clean up the debris, trash and rubbish. Watch especially for oily rags or old paint brushes, etc. They may cause spontaneous combustion.

NOTE: SALVAGEABLE MATERIAL SUCH AS PAPER, METAL, RAGS, SACKS, ETC. SHOULD BE CONSIGNED TO THE NEAREST SALVAGE DEPOT. USABLE MACHINE PARTS SHOULD BE CLEANED AND KEPT FOR REPAIR.

3. In all farm buildings fix leaky roofs, cracked chimneys, rusty stovepipes, poor foundations, rotted sills, bad electric wiring and connections, and lightning rods. See that doors, windows, screens and furniture are in good repair.
4. Watch for and repair broken or loose stair steps, board walks, and the like, around the farm buildings. Remove nails, jagged boards, and other items that might cause injury to people or livestock.
5. Woolen clothes and bedding need to be cleaned and packed away to protect them from moths and pests. Contribute clothing not being used, for European relief.
6. Remove dry brush, weeds, grass, etc. along roadsides and near buildings. Remove standing dead trees or limbs that may cause accidents or fires or damage to electric wiring.
7. Keep your water supply sanitary and safe. Springs, wells and cisterns may need to be cleaned and to have sanitary conditions around them checked.
8. Holes and puddles around the farm buildings may need to be filled. Mosquito breeding places should be drained.
9. Bridges, gates, fences need checking and repairing.
10. Kill rats and remove rat harbors. Take active steps to keep pest damage to a minimum.
11. See that fire fighting equipment--hand extinguishers, shovels, water containers, ladders, hose, etc.--are in tiptop shape, conveniently located and ready for use.

A GOOD SLOGAN: EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

Suggested Tactics for Spring Clean-Up Week

All agricultural field agencies are asked to join the effort to:

1. Get each community to set a special week for Farm Clean-Up. The agency representatives should combine forces to assist the local fire department, health officers, safety council, schools, officials, and civic and other organized groups.
2. Ask 4-H Clubs and other youth groups to help make a special wartime clean-up drive in their communities, house-by-house, collecting critical material like paper, clothing, sacks and metal.
3. Call on home demonstration clubs and other women's groups. Farm women know what spring housecleaning is. Show them why a complete farm clean-up is important.
4. Use press and radio releases, posters, window displays, etc. to call public attention to the clean-up drive, the needs for clean-up, and specific things to do.

This is part of your year around safety program. Materials on National Farm Safety Week, July 22-28, and National Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, will be prepared and sent you when timely.

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